

The NAB's argument against satellite radio is ludicrous. It is politicians and lobbying groups once again taking rights away from American citizens for the right amount of money. Their argument is weak and like the RIAA debacle with MP3s, seeks government protection rather than improving their own products to compete. This country is supposed to be based on a free market and this entrepreneurial spirit has served us well. Competition is at the heart of our free enterprise system and the quality of service offered by satellite radio, specifically XM in my case, far exceeds the quality of traditional broadcasters (FM and AM radio stations). In fact, the quality of service offered by the these traditional FM/AM broadcasters is so bad, in my opinion, that I am willing to spend \$10 per month on XM just to receive a quality service. Most recently, the addition of local traffic and weather has been fantastic. When I am stuck in traffic and trying to decide whether to take a side road to save time, I can now find out immediately rather than waiting for 5 minutes of commercials to end. Also, as I travel from one area to another, I can easily find out traffic and weather conditions for that area quickly, without trying to find a local station.

Radio developed from technological advances from inventors such as Hertz, DeForest and Armstrong. Satellite radio is just another step in this technological evolution. Unfortunately, radio has become big business and has lost touch with trends in technology and the lifestyles of it listeners. Satellite radio is a much needed service and should be supported by the FCC.

I respectfully urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160.